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NEWS, NOTES AND REVIEWS

The *Journal of Agricultural Research* for January contains an account by Della E. Ingram of a disease caused by a fungus which is referred to *Diplodia longispora* Cooke & Ellis. While the disease usually attacks the chestnut oak, it may also attack the chestnut and other species of oaks. The trees are not killed outright but may die as a result of weakening from the attacks of the disease. The disease gains access to the plant through wounds in the bark.

Contribution No. 144 from the Botanical Department of the University of Michigan is a record of researches on the mycorrhizas of forest trees by W. B. McDougal. As a result of this work, four species of fungi are added to the known list of ectotropic mycorrhiza-forming fungi, as follows: *Russula* sp. on *Tilia americana*, *Boletus scaber fuscus* on *Betula alba papyrifera*, *Cortinarius* sp. on *Betula alba papyrifera*, and *Scleroderma vulgare* on *Quercus alba*. It is stated that at least four different species of mushrooms may form mycorrhizas on the same tree.

It has recently been shown by F. C. Stewart and W. H. Rankin, of Geneva, New York, that it is probable that *Cronartium ribicola* rarely, if ever, winters over on the currant as it has been suspected of doing from the severe outbreak of the currant rust in that vicinity. This rust in its aecial stage is known as *Peridermium Strobi* and affects those species of *Pinus* which have their leaves borne in clusters of five. The rust is perennial on the pine but cannot spread directly from one pine to another. The recent outbreak of currant rust was found to be due to two pine trees infected with the blister-rust.

The New York Botanical Garden recently acquired the Mycological herbarium of William R. Gerard, who died suddenly in New York City, February 26, 1914. He was born in Newburgh, N. Y., March 26, 1841, and in boyhood entered the employment of a druggist in Poughkeepsie; remaining in the same business until finally he became proprietor of a drug store in that city.

He began the study of fungi at a time when few American botanists had devoted attention to this group of plants, his first descriptions of new species appearing in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for October, 1873, before the publication of the earliest mycological papers of Burrill, Ellis, Farlow, or Morgan. In the following year, he was one of the founders of the Poughkeepsie Society of Natural Science, in whose *Proceedings* a number of his botanical papers were published. In 1877, he removed to New York City, where he was an active member of the Torrey Botanical Club for some years. Before the death of William H. Leggett, the founder and editor of the *Bulletin*, Mr. Gerard was made assistant editor, and he followed him as editor, filling that office from April, 1882, to December, 1885. In later years he was interested in the derivation of plant names, especially those of American Indian origin, and contributed papers on this subject to *Garden and Forest* in 1895 and 1896. Otherwise, his botanical studies seem to have ended with the year 1885.

AGARICUS XYLOGENUS Mont.

Agaricus (Psalliota) xylogenus Mont. Syll. Crypt. 122. 1856 was described as follows from plants said to have been collected by Sullivant on dead wood near Columbus, Ohio, in August: "Pileus conic to campanulate, umbonate, 3-6 cm. broad; surface smooth, luteous, fuscous at length on the umbo, margin striate when dry; stipe white, 7 cm. long, 5 mm. thick, slightly larger at the base, hollow, with a persistent annulus below the middle; lamellae free, remote, rose-colored as in *A. campestris*; spores globose, 5-7.5 μ , discolored-hyaline; related to *Agaricus cepae-stipes*."

Sullivant had two collections numbered 140. The plants described, which do not grow on wood, resemble a *Lepiota*, with long, slender stipe, brown umbo, and a good superior annulus, but no scales such as occur in *L. procera*. They are neither *L. cepaestipes* nor *L. Morgani*. The other No. 140, called 140² by Montagne, is totally different from the one described and is attached to dead wood, thereby deserving the specific name. The pileus is white, glabrous, apparently viscid, distinctly umbonate,

3 cm. broad in the dried state; lamellae white, crowded; stipe slender, glabrous, slightly enlarged below; annulus inferior.

W. A. MURRILL.

A NEW BOOK ON THE BRITISH RUST FUNGI*

In 1889, Plowright brought out the first monographic account of the rusts of England. In the twenty-four years which intervened before the next comprehensive treatment of the group by Grove, in 1913, it is not surprising to find that sufficient information has accumulated to make the latter presentation much more bulky than the former. Plowright treated both the rusts and smuts in a single volume of 347 pages, while Grove requires in the present volume 412 pages for the rusts alone. The two authors have treated their subject in a very similar manner, giving first the biology, or natural history, of the group and following it with a systematic part which includes descriptions, hosts, and distributions. Plowright devotes 57 pages to the natural history of the rusts and 135 to their classification, whereas the later author uses 84 and 300 pages, respectively, for the two parts.

The expansion of the biological part by Grove is due partly to the fact that some entirely new topics, notably sexuality and separation of species into races, have been developed in the interim and partly to the fact that he treats at greater length the life histories of certain typical forms. It is interesting to note that *Puccinia Caricis* instead of *P. graminis* has been selected for extended consideration as "the typical Uredine." The author explains that he has done this because the aecia of *P. graminis* are rare and difficult to obtain for demonstration, while that of *P. Caricis* is common. In the second, or systematic portion, the increase in the recent book is due chiefly to the larger number of species included, although the more complete descriptions with somewhat fuller notes would call for more space. A comparison of the two main genera, *Puccinia* and *Uromyces*, will throw some light on the taxonomic situation from the standpoint of the species. Plowright included 100 species of *Puccinia* and 38 of *Uromyces*, while Grove has added 37 species of *Puccinia* and 10

* The British Rust Fungi. By W. B. Grove, M.A., Pp. xii, 412. 290 text figs. Cambridge: at the University Press. 1913.